



IFGJ GP3749

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Xudong Zhu Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson

Serial No.: 10/517,091 Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: 12/06/2004. Date: 07/24/2006

Customer No.: 28862 Docket No.: CNIP-A-PCT-US

For: **CASTING SAND HEATING APPARATUS**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached **AMENDMENT "A"**, **ANNOTATED DRAWING SHEET, AND REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEET**, were mailed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on July 24, 2006, before 5:00 PM, thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day. Thus, timely response has been made to the outstanding Office action prior to expiration of the shortened statutory period for the same ending **July 25, 2006**.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT "A"

In reply to the Official Action of April 25, 2006, Applicant responds as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawing begins on page 4 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.